

Ex Convict 1881

Chapter 1881

'Is he... really walking away?' Grace was shocked. Then, his men removed the barricades that were in place and the road to L City was unimpeded once more.

Her eyes were full of disbelief as she slowly turned to look at Jason, who was standing on one side.

His face was expressionless. Even the eyes that were looking at her seemed to hold no emotion.

Grace felt a pang in her heart and mouthed silently, 'Jay, I'm sorry!'

Her foot stepped on the gas pedal, and the car shot out onto the freeway!

Jason looked at the leaving car coldly. After a long time, he slowly raised his hand and placed it on his heart.

'It... hurts so much!

'Is this how it feels like to be betrayed by the person you love the most?

'Mother betrayed Father once, and now Grace... has betrayed me too!'

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Grace drove to L City numbly, but she kept recalling the way Jay had looked at her. It was as if she had hurt him terribly.

'Jay, just this once! Just this once, okay?' she shouted to herself.

The car finally pulled up to L City's First Hospital. Grace realized her face was covered in tears again somehow.

Wiping away her tears with all her might, she helped Mrs. Watts into the hospital's emergency room with Old Lawyer Watts.

The doctor gave Mrs. Watts a preliminary diagnosis. While waiting for the blood test report, Old Lawyer Watts told Grace, "Grace, thank you for this, but you and Jason..."

"Mentor, don't worry about me. I... I'll go back and explain it to Jay. I'll ask him for forgiveness." She comforted Old Lawyer Watts but felt uneasy herself.

'Will Jay ever forgive me?

'It's not like he didn't give me a chance. He even said at the freeway that if I went home with him, he could forget it ever happened, but I still... Grace's drooping hands tugged at the hem of her dress.

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If he doesn't forgive me... The thought made her ache all over even though it just crossed her mind. She did not want to think about it anymore.

After the blood test report and other examination reports. came out, sure enough, Mrs. Watts's fever was serious. If she had come to the hospital a few days later, she might have suffered from organ failure.

The doctor also chided Old Lawyer Watts and Grace for sending the patient over so late.

After going through the paperwork for Mrs. Watts's hospital admittance and sending Mrs. Watts into the ward, Old Lawyer Watts looked at Grace's exhausted face. He said, "Why don't you take a rest and get a good night's sleep?"

Grace said, "No, I have to go back to Emerald City. I want to get back to Jay as soon as possible."

Old Lawyer Watts tried to persuade her again, but he sighed when he saw his apprentice's red eyes and anxious face. "Okay, then. Be careful on your way back."

"Mentor, take care. Don't tell Mrs. Watts what happened at the freeway when she wakes up," said Grace. She did not want to deepen Mrs. Watts's guilt.

Old Lawyer Watts nodded, and Grace turned to leave.

She drove back to Emerald City. She was so anxious to return. She just wanted to see the man whom she had hurt severely.

She tried to call his phone on her way back, but he did not pick up.

She could only call Uncle Kwan. She learned that Jay had returned to Reed Residence.

When she got back to Reed Residence, she anxiously asked

Uncle Kwan, "Where's Jay?"

Chapter 1882

"Young master Reed has been in the mourning hall for hours and hasn't come out. Young Madam, did something happen between you and Young master Reed?" Uncle Kwan said a little worriedly.

Grace did not know how to reply to him, so she hurriedly said, "I'll go look for him!" With that said, she ran in the direction of the mourning hall.

Uncle Kwan was about to say that Young master Reed had ordered that no one was allowed to enter the mourning hall, but he said nothing in the end.

'Young master Reed said no one is allowed... but Young Madam is often an exception! Besides, if something did

happen between them, everything will be alright after Young Madam sees Young master Reed!'

Uncle Kwan thought optimistically.

Grace rushed into the mourning hall and saw Jason standing motionless in front of his father's memorial tablet. He looked

just like a sculpture.

The soft light in the room shone on him, but there was an indescribable chill exuding from his entire being.

"Jay..." Grace called out softly, but her voice was extremely dry and hoarse. She had not taken a sip of water since leaving Reed Residence early this morning. Her lips were drier than ever.

Jason slowly turned around and looked at her with those bright peach blossom eyes. A slight smile appeared on his lips. "You're back."

Grace froze. He was smiling and looked as usual, but she felt cold. A chill ran down her spine.

It was because his eyes were so cold. It was as if she was only a stranger to him.

There was no love or tenderness. Not even resentment or hatred... It was an emotionless gaze!

"Jay, I... I know what I did today has hurt you, and I'm sorry..." She opened her mouth and apologized with a hoarse voice.

He still smiled faintly and said, "You know what? My father once told me that it's best not to fall in love with anyone because when you're betrayed by the one you love, it feels like a knife stabbing into your body. Even your bones feel like they're being crushed."

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He spoke word by word as he slowly walked up to her. "Grace, do you know what it feels like?"

His eyes seemed to freeze her blood, and his smile was so harsh. She loved his smile so much, but at this moment, she wished she would never see him smile like this again.

"Jay, stop smiling!" she murmured. His smile seemed like a punishment to her, making her extremely miserable.

“What’s the matter? Didn’t you say you like to see me smile?” The once melodious voice now seemed to prick her eardrums like sharp needles.

“I... I know I’ve hurt you. Just this once, Jay, will you forgive me just this once?” she pleaded.

“Just this once?” He chuckled. “You knew you would hurt me but did it anyway. Were you so sure I’d forgive you?”

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“I...” She tried to say something, but she realized that she

could not say a word to defend herself when she opened her mouth.

Chapter 1883

He said, “Grace, do you really think you can recklessly hurt me just because I love you? Do you know that you’re the first person to drug me and stand before me unharmed?”

What he said made her feel utterly embarrassed. “I... I admit I did it because you love me, but I just didn’t want things to get to the point that it would be irreversible. I didn’t want you to do anything you’d regret. Jay, will killing your own mother and having her punished make you happy?”

He suddenly pushed her against the wall nearby. Then, he

leaned over and breathed in her face.

“What makes you think I’ll regret it? Do you think you’re a fighter for justice because you’ve been a lawyer for a long time? How do you know I won’t be happy doing all that?” he asked with a sneer.

She froze.

“Do you know how I felt when I drank the bowl of vegetable

beef soup you made when you wanted to drug me? Do you know how I wished you had never shown up at the freeway? Grace, I gave you so many chances, yet you still drove your car toward me in the end. When I let you pass, I told myself

that I won’t be the one who loves more from today onward.” His voice rang coldly in her ears.

Her heart shuddered, and she widened her eyes as she stared at him. “What do you mean... by that?”

He stared at her, and her face was reflected in his dark eyes. “Father was right. The one who loves first and the one who loves more will always be the loser. I don’t want to be a loser anymore.”

“Jay, you’re not a loser. I love you just as much. I love you. I really do!” Grace said quickly.

However, he just looked at her calmly, "Grace, I already told you that anyone can betray me but you. I said I wouldn't forgive you if you betrayed me!"

She instantly turned paler as if her worst fear had come true.

'Wouldn't forgive... These words weighed like a thousand pounds and almost crushed her.

He raised his hand and stroked her cheek gently like a lover's most gentle comfort, but there was nothing gentle in his eyes when he looked at her.

His long fingers slowly landed on her neck. Jason's eyes suddenly darkened.

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Her slender neck looked so fragile. It was as if he could easily break it if he used some force.

'Would it stop hurting so much if she no longer exists?' When he watched her drive toward him as he stood at the entry to the freeway earlier, he had the impulse to kill everyone!

Grace did not move or even struggle. All her attention was on the face of the man in front of her. She just stared blankly at those indifferent eyes.

She once thought he would never look at her with such a gaze, but she was the person who took away all the emotions in those eyes.

"I'm sorry... Jay." She sobbed.

He trembled slightly. Then, he slowly closed his eyes as his face slowly approached her.

Chapter 1884

She stared at his face as it magnified before her eyes. Then, his lips brushed her cheek and stopped at her ear.

She heard his voice say, "Grace, I won't forgive you."

Her blood froze as if she was in an ice cellar.

Lina looked at her best friend's haggard look and could not help asking, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

"I... I did something that hurt Jay," Grace said bitterly.

"Did you quarrel with Jason?" Lina asked quickly.

'Quarrel?' Grace smiled wryly. It would have been better if they had just quarreled. She did not even know where Jay was

right now.

He left Reed Residence and had not returned after saying that he would not forgive her in the mourning hall that night.

She went to his office, mansion, and even the street where his father died, but she could not find him.

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When she asked Terrence, he only said, "Young master Reed wants some time to calm down and doesn't want to be disturbed."

Terrence refused to say anything more when she asked again.

"I was too full of myself. I thought he would forgive me because he loves me. But I'll try to find a way to make up with him. Don't worry," said Grace.

Grace was afraid her best friend would be worried about her. After all, Lina's top priority now was to rest. "By the way, how's the baby doing?" asked Grace as she changed the topic.

A smile finally appeared on Lina's face once Grace mentioned the baby in her belly. "The doctor told me the baby's doing well today. Our heart rates are back to normal, and the drug is probably out of my system now. There's no trace of that drug in the blood test. They'll arrange an ultrasound to check on the baby later."

"That's good." Finally, there was good news amid the bad news.

"But I didn't expect Katherine Jackson to hurt me!" Lina felt a lingering fear. Her best friend told her that she was admitted to the hospital because Katherine Jackson had bribed someone in the community health center to add something

3/3 else into the progesterone shot she was taking, causing her abnormal heart rate that even endangered the baby in her belly!

She thought she would have no conflict with Katherine Jackson after she broke up with Hadwin Stephenson, but who knew Katherine Jackson never planned to let her go.

"I've given the information to the police. They're already looking for Katherine Jackson!" said Grace. They just did not have enough evidence so far, hence the police were just looking for her. They could not issue an arrest warrant.

"I wonder when they'll catch Katherine Jackson," muttered Lina. She would not feel at ease as long as Katherine Jackson was not captured.

'And Hadwin Stephenson... Does he know what Katherine Jackson has done? Does he know that the person he's sleeping with wants the baby and me dead? Or does he already know everything? Maybe he's hiding Katherine Jackson so that the police can't find her?'

Chapter 1885

Lina found herself getting muddle-headed when she thought of this. It was as if something was pressing on her heart.

“Hadwin Stephenson probably doesn’t know about it.” Grace seemed to see through what her best friend was thinking and said, “I don’t think Katherine Jackson has left Emerald City. If Hadwin Stephenson wanted to help her, someone would have taken the blame for her and she’d never end up being wanted by the police.”

Lina froze slightly, then she looked down and murmured, “It seems that Hadwin Stephenson doesn’t love Katherine Jackson or me that much after all.” A man like him probably loved his career and success the most. Women were just something to spice up his life.

“Lina, maybe Katherine Jackson visited Hadwin Stephenson’s mansion for something else. Maybe it’s not what you think,” said Grace.

Lina said, “Why do you think a man would let a woman stay at his mansion for the night? And more than once? If the Stephenson family wanted to acquire the Jackson family’s properties, why couldn’t they talk about work during the day? Why did they have to spend the night at the mansion? It must be a private matter, then.”

Grace could not think of any other reason either. They could only find out the answer by asking Hadwin Stephenson or Katherine Jackson.

After coming out of the hospital, Grace went to the kindergarten to pick up her three children from school.

The three children were Mick Reed, Jasper Reed, and William.

As for Mason, although his name on the household registration record had been changed to Mason, he continued to live with the He family. The little one refused to go to kindergarten, so Grace had no choice but to give up.

Fortunately, the little one was looking forward to entering primary school. He wanted to quickly go to school with Veronica Barlow.

The kindergarten teacher respectfully invited Grace into the office. Grace saw the obvious injuries on William’s face. Jasper and Mick looked to be in better states, but their hair and clothes were a little messy.

Jasper Reed’s angry face turned into a look of grievance when she saw Grace. “Mommy, the teacher wronged me!” She looked as if she wanted Grace to get justice for her.

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The teacher nearby hurriedly explained that it was because the children were fighting. William was the only one fighting with other children at first, but then Jasper joined in. Mick Reed joined in right away when he saw his sister fighting.

The children's parents had apparently told them about Jasper and Mick Reed, so they did not dare to fight with them. They only kept hitting William.

Therefore, William's injuries were the most serious.

"Why did they fight?" asked Grace. After all, in her opinion, William was not a troublemaker. One could even say that he was too quiet sometimes.

"The children only argued a little and William hit them first. The children were badly beaten up, and their parents have sent them to the hospital," the teacher said, putting all the blame on William.

William kept his head down and said nothing as if he was acquiescing to everything the teacher said.

"They called William a prisoner's child and wrongly accused William of stealing their toys. That's why William hit them!" Jasper said indignantly.

The teacher said to Grace, "They were just saying those things, but the situation escalated when William started

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hitting them! Besides, a child like William will inevitably be out of place in a kindergarten like ours. For him to progress better, I think you should transfer the child to another kindergarten."

Chapter 1886

Obviously, the teacher did not want William to stay in the kindergarten. The child was admitted to the kindergarten by the Reed family, but having a child with a mother who committed suicide in the detention center would only affect their reputation.

Grace said right away, "I don't think what the kids said was any less harsh than William hitting them. I don't think it's wrong to fight back when you're insulted either! Also, if you think William isn't fit to be here, I'll transfer the three children to another kindergarten. There will be other kindergartens in Emerald City suitable for them!"

With that said, Grace crouched down and looked at the little one with scars on his face. "I know that you must be in great pain. I'll take you to a doctor later. These wounds will soon heal."

William stared blankly at Grace. His pretty eyes widened, and his little face seemed shocked. He was surprised that she would speak up for him.

In his opinion, the woman in front of him should hate him and be disgusted with him.

It was because his mother almost killed her.

"Alright, let's go." Grace took William's hand and headed out of the office with the three children.

It was then that the teacher came to her senses. 'Did Mrs.

Reed say... she's transferring the three children? Does that mean Mick Reed and Jasper are also transferring?

'Gosh! If the Reed family's children transfer elsewhere, it'll cause a great uproar in the kindergarten. The director will scold me to death if he finds out!!

She was just trying to kick William out of the kindergarten. Kids like him did not belong in a kindergarten like theirs! However, who would have thought that Mrs. Reed would be so resolute for the child of a deceased prisoner who once harmed her?

The teacher ran out, wanting to change her mind. However, Grace had already gotten in the car with the three children.

In the car, Jasper blew hard at the injuries on William's face. "It doesn't hurt... It doesn't hurt. Mommy will take you to the doctor soon."

William looked at Jasper before looking at Grace. He suddenly said, "I don't have to go to kindergarten."

Grace smiled. "You can learn a lot of new things and play with other children in kindergarten. Jasper loves going to kindergarten. She even cries when she doesn't have to go on weekends! This time, I'll choose a good kindergarten. The three of you can then go together."

William only thought that the smile of the woman before him was so gentle and different from his mother's smile.

'Is this... Jasper's mommy?'

"Mommy, when will Daddy be back? I want Daddy and Mommy to fetch us to the new kindergarten on our first day! How many more days will he be away on his business trip? I miss Daddy!" mumbled Jasper Reed.

Mick Reed also stared at Grace, clearly wondering when his father would return.

Grace pressed her lips together slightly. She still kept a smile on her face, not wanting her children to sense anything unusual. "I think he'll probably be back in a few days. I'll

fetch you to the new kindergarten with Daddy when the time comes."

Jasper cheered at her assurance, but Mick Reed cautiously asked for confirmation, "Really?"

"Of course! I wouldn't lie to you!" Grace rubbed her son's tiny

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head. It was a promise and also a show of her determination.

She had to find Jay no matter what. She had so much to say to Jay! She wanted to tell him how much she loved him and that he had never been a loser in their relationship!

Chapter 1887

After seeing a doctor, it was confirmed William only had some skin trauma, and the wounds on his face would not leave scars. Hence, he was just given some ointment.

Grace was afraid that the five-year-old might confuse the ointment with something else and swallow it, so she decided to put it away. She would apply it to the little one's wounds herself every day.

However, her daughter asked her for the ointment at night. "Mommy, I'll apply the ointment for William."

Grace raised her eyebrows slightly. "Do you know how to do it?"

"Yes!" The little one nodded her head hard. "I'm not a child anymore!"

It was somewhat funny that a five-year-old was saying that she was not a child. However, Grace also knew how reserved William was with her. Every time she approached the boy, she could feel the tension in his body.

2/3 She pondered for a moment and handed the ointment to her daughter. "Then apply it for William. But remember that the ointment can only be applied externally, not eaten. Remember to wash your hands after applying the ointment!"

"Okay." Jasper nodded her little head and skipped to William's room with the ointment. Of course, it was also her room because she shared a bed with William at night.

Jasper entered William's room. The room was well decorated and there were a lot of toys in the room. Of course, Jasper had moved these toys from her room, so they were dolls and toys for girls.

William froze slightly when he saw Jasper come in. Then, he saw the ointment in her hand. He reached out to take it.

However, Jasper insisted on applying it for him herself. "We're best friends. We should help each other!" she said persuasively.

His lashes quivered slightly. His mother had told him before that he and she would never be friends.

Jasper uncapped the lid, squeezed out the ointment, and applied it to William's injured face. Then, she used her two hands to take off his clothes.

William's little face blushed. "I... I'll do it myself." He was five

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years old but already had an idea of things regarding gender identities.

"You have injuries on your back too. You can't see them," she muttered. She went on to undress him and apply the ointment.

Her little hands continued to apply the ointment. In her opinion, the more ointment she used, the sooner William would get better.

"Why did you... help me with the fight?" William asked abruptly.

"Didn't I tell you we're best friends? Of course, I'm going to help you when others bully you!" she replied matter-of-factly.

"Do you really think we can be best friends?" he murmured.

"Why not?" she asked in confusion.

Chapter 1888

"My mommy harmed your mommy and your brother, Maybe I'll harm you too," he said with a rare look of inferiority. No matter how much others bullied him, he would not show such a look of inferiority in front of them. He would only feel inferior in front of her.

"Why would you harm me?" Jasper blinked her round, almond-shaped eyes, looking adorable and innocent.

His eyes met her almond-shaped eyes. She was carefree like a pampered little princess. He should hate her because she was keeping him in the most inappropriate place. He was just her toy.

However, he could not hate her and even wanted to stay by her side longer.

"Because they said my mommy harmed your family and I'll harm you too," he said. Not only did the people at the kindergarten say this but the maids in Reed Residence often said it in private too.

"You won't harm me!" Jasper shouted back without any hesitation.

"Why are you so sure?" Even he could not help wondering whether he might harm her when he grew up. His mother killed herself because she harmed others, but... without aunt. Cummins and the Reed family, she would not have died.

"Because we're best friends!" said Jasper Reed.

William froze. She seemed to stubbornly think that they were best friends and did not think about how different they were.

'Can she and I... really be friends?'

Grace quietly watched as she stood by the door.

She did not know what would happen to the two children, but at least she hoped that the previous generation's grudges would not be carried over to the next generation. She wished they would get along like they were now.

The children were asleep, but Grace was still awake. She felt cold no matter how warm the bed was.

She only realized how big the bed was and how empty the room was when Jay was not around.

Grace went downstairs and sat down at the empty dining table where she and Jay had drunk the vegetable beef soup that night. He had drunk mouthful after mouthful of the spiked soup.

Although she had made up an excuse and told the kids that their father was on a business trip, she could sense that Mick was suspicious. He would occasionally look at her with concern.

She wanted to find Jay and ask for his forgiveness, but she did not even know where he was.

Just then, she heard footsteps behind her. Grace trembled and subconsciously shouted, "Jay!" However, she was disappointed when she turned her head. It was Uncle Kwan who came over.

"Uncle Kwan, it's late. Why aren't you in bed?" asked Grace.

"Young Madam, Young master Reed is probably in the old mansion on the outskirts of town," said Uncle Kwan.

"Old mansion?" Grace was surprised. She froze when Uncle Kwan told her the exact address.

The mansion was the one Jay had taken her to. It was

also the mansion where Jay's great-grandfather and great-grandmother fell in love with each other. It was the mansion where Old master Reed grew up.

'Did Jay... go there?'

"How do you know?" Grace asked Uncle Kwan.

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"I had this speculation after Terrence ordered me not to send anyone to clean the old mansion for the time being," said Uncle Kwan. After all, he was responsible for having someone clean the old mansion.

Now that there was a sudden change in the schedule and Young master Reed was not around these days, it was only natural for him to have such speculation.

Chapter 1889

"Young Madam, you can go over and see if Young master Reed is there," said Uncle Kwan.

"Uncle Kwan, thank you!" Grace said as she jumped to her feet and ran out of the house.

"Are you going now, Young Madam?" Uncle Kwan was shocked. "It's too late now. Why don't you go tomorrow..."

"I want to see Jay as soon as possible!" said Grace. She could not wait to see him.

"I'll have the driver take you there." Uncle Kwan said quickly.

A few minutes later, a black car slowly drove away from Reed Residence. Grace kept praying that Jason was really there.

Every day had been a torment for her these days. She kept thinking about their conversations and what they did at the freeway and the mourning hall.

He said he would not forgive her.

It sounded emotionless when he said it. It was only a robotic statement, but she felt excruciating pain every time she

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recalled it.

How disappointed was he to tell her such a thing?

That man loved her so much!

When the car pulled up to the gate of the old mansion, Grace was stopped by the security guards.

"I'm Mrs. Reed, and I want to enter!" said Grace.

"Sorry, no one is allowed in without Young master Reed's permission," the security guard replied.

"So is Young master Reed inside?" Grace asked suddenly.

The security guard was about to reply but he suddenly came to his senses and gathered himself before saying, "Young Madam, please go back."

However, the look on the security guard's face told Grace that Uncle Kwan was right. Jay was inside.

"I want to enter!" Grace said again.

"Young Madam, please don't put us in a difficult position. Without Young master Reed's orders, we can't let you in!" he

said with a grimace.

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Grace ignored him and just took a deep breath before walking to the iron gate. She looked inside through the bars as she stood there.

She once stayed here for a week. It was then that she learned the story of Jay's great-grandfather and great-grandmother. The tragic love affair ended with the end of one person's life and the other spending the rest of her life in this old mansion.

She had gotten emotional after listening to the story, only thinking that the relationship was too tragic and the two missed out on too many chances!

Grace stood there with a determined look on her face.

As long as Jay was inside, she would stay here. If he would not let her in, she would stay here until he came out! She wanted to see him no matter what.

The scene of her standing at the door was captured in the surveillance video inside the mansion. When Terrence learned that Grace was standing at the entrance, he immediately reported it to his boss.

Chapter 1890

Terrence knew Young master Reed was mad at Grace. Young master Reed had been working in the mansion. He did

not even go to the office, but it did not stop the company's employees from feeling like they were walking on thin ice.

Three senior executives had been laid off in just a few days. God knew how many more were to come if Young master Reed remained mad for a few more days.

Many people had asked him about the reason for Young master Reed's sudden layoffs. How was he supposed to answer that? Even if he was audacious, he dared not say it was because the couple quarreled.

Fortunately, Grace finally found him. She was the only one who could make Young master Reed so mad and the only one who could cool him down!

Terrence hurried to the pond. Jason was standing by the pond, looking quietly at the specially cultivated lotus flowers.

It was not the season for lotus flowers to bloom, but the lotus flowers in the pond were blooming beautifully.

"Young master Reed, Young Madam is at the entrance and

refuses to leave. It seems she intends to wait at the gate," reported Terrence as he carefully observed his boss' expression.

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There were no changes on Jason's beautiful face. It was as if he had just heard an extremely common thing.

"Let her wait if she wants to wait," Jason said indifferently.

"Yes," replied Terrence. It seemed that Young master Reed was furious this time!

"You can leave. I want to be alone," said Jason.

Terrence bowed and left while Jason continued to stay by the pond. He was motionless like a sculpture while looking at the lotus flowers in the pond.

Grace had no idea how long she had been standing here. Her legs were very sore, and the sky had started to brighten a

little.

'Is... Is it dawn already?' she thought to herself.

When her phone rang, she took it out and saw that it was Uncle Kwan calling.

Grace pressed the accept button, and Uncle Kwan asked, "Young Madam, are you at the old mansion? When Young

Master Mo and Young Lady wake up..."

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"I'm still at the old mansion. Tell them I left early for work when they wake up," said Grace, who then looked at the mansion. in front of her. She took a deep breath and said, "Also, Uncle Kwan, make up some excuse for me if I don't go home today!"

"Are you... not coming home today?" asked Uncle Kwan.

"It depends on whether I can see Jay," replied Grace as she ended the call.

She wanted to see Jay no matter what... No matter how long she had to stand here.

Grace had no idea how long she had been standing. She was so sleepy, exhausted, and... hungry that she was a little shaky.

As she staggered and swayed, she heard the security guard's voice. "Young Madam, are you okay?"

Grace shook her head. "I'm fine. Umm... Do you have any food here?"

"Huh?" The security guard froze.